

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No. : 10/718,484 Confirmation No.: 8434  
Applicants: : Dirk L. Basting et al.  
Filed: : 11/20/2003  
TC/A.U. : 2612  
Examiner : Unassigned  
  
Docket No. : 1602.1  
Customer No. : 21901

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

## Introductory Comments

Sir:

The above-identified patent application is amended prior to examination as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

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